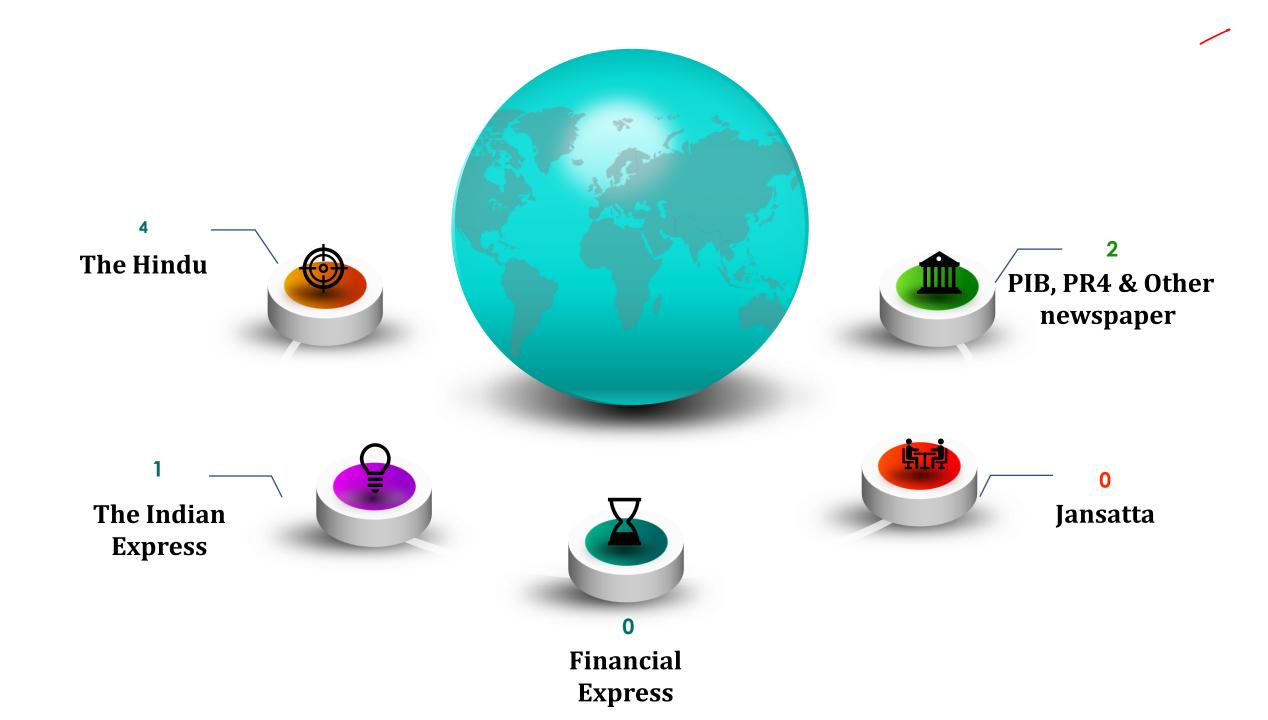
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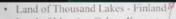
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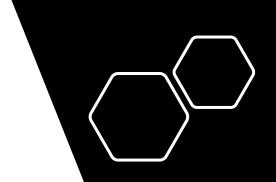
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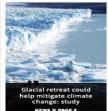
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10 Questions test related to this class















Karnataka BJP MLA arrested for caste abuse

BENGALURU Munirathna, BJP MLA for Rajarajeshwari Nagar of Rajarajeshwan Nagar of Karnataka, was arrested on Saturday under various charges, including caste abuse and criminal intimidation. The arrest comes a day after two FiRs were registered against him. 39 PAGE 3



Manipur districts withdraw curfew

GUWAHATI
Three district administrations in Manipur's Imphal Valley withdrew curfew relaxations, following a large gathering of women outside a police station to protest the critical injury suffered by a pregnant woman during the station to the station to the station of the st during the students' unrest on Tuesday. » PAGE 3



Taj dome leaks; damage, says ASI

LUCKNOW Water leakage has been reported at the Taj Mahal in Agra, which received heavy



France's Le Pen calls for fresh polls next year

The parliamentary leader of France's far-right National Rally party on Saturday called for fresh elections next year, just months after snap polls threw deadlock. "It is untenable." she

CM CM

Dynasts vs aspirational youth in J&K, says Modi

PM targets Congress, NC and PDP, accusing them of promoting terrorism; he says people have to pick between BJP's 'Sankalp Patra' and other manifestos that promise the 'return of old bad days'

escribing the Assembly election in Jammu and Kash-mir as one that would demir as one that would de-cide the fate of the Union Territory, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Satur-day launched a scathing at-tack on the "Gandhi (Con-gress), Abdullah (National Conference or NC) and Conference or NC) and Party or PDP" families in Politics, alleging that they had "hollowed out and destroyed J&K". lestroyed J&K".

I&K. Since Independence. our J&K has been targeted by foreign powers. Terrorism is now counting its last days in J&K. The up-coming election will de-



meeting in Doda on Saturday. AN

tourists. J&K will be a global film destination, and there will be a direct train from Delhi to Srinagar

soon," Mr. Modi said.
Targeting the Gandhis,
the Abdullahs and the Muftis, the Prime Minister said: "These parties pro-moted separatism and tercoming election will de-cide the Union Territory's future," he said in Doda is the Assembly polis. Only the BJP would res-tore Statehood to J&K, he said. "We are committed to making J&K a terror-free

Patra' and these parties' manifestos that advocate the return of the old bad and rollback of reservation to Paharis, Gujjars and Ba-kerwals. Also, they advocate snatching the voting rights of Valmikis and Da-lits," he said.

lits," he said.

He said in this election,
"the dynasts are pitted
against the youth with high
aspirations and dreams of
Jakk". "Pariwarwad (nepotism) has not allowed the
youth to come forward. After coming to power in

forward the new leader-ship of the youth in J&K," he said.

The Prime Minister said The Prime Minister said youth who threw stones at the police and security forces had higher aspira-tions now. "Stones are be-ing used to construct new, big buildings," he said.

The BJP has fielded a terror victim, Shagin Parihar, from the Kishtwar constituency. 'Both her parents were killed by terrorists. She is our tool against terrorism," Mr. Modi said. He urged supporters to enable the BJP's candidates "vin with a huge mandate". 'This will enandate".

sure a brighter future for everyone in the Valley. Any citizen of lammu and Kashcitizen of Jammu and Kash-mir, regardless of his reli-gion, region and cultural affiliation, is a priority for the BJP government," Mr. Modi said.

Three unidentified militants killed in J&K's Baramulla



Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Security forces on Satur-day killed three unidentified militants in north Kashmir's Baramulla during an anti-militancy opering an anti-militancy oper-ation. In Kishtwar, a sepa-rate operation was under way to locate hiding mili-tants, who opened fire and killed two soldiers on Fri-day afternoon. Officials said the Bara-mulla operators was in its

and two more militants were shot dead later, they said. Security forces had encircled the terrorists at Chak Tappar area of Pattan in Baramulla district on Friday night.
"The bodies are being

"The bodies are being retrieved from the encounter site," they added.
As these operations continued in the Union Territory, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed an

on Saturday.

This was the Prime Min-siter's first rally in the Union Territory, which was set to face Assembly elec-

Doda district is adjacent to Kishtwar where security forces, since Friday after-noon, have been exchang-ing fire with a group of mil-itants hiding in upper

Protesting doctors visit Mamata's house, but talks called off over live streaming of meeting

The Hindu Bureau

Protesting resident doctors Protesting resident doctors visited the residence of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Sanerjee in Kolka-ta on Saturday for a meet-ing, but could not hold any discussion as the impasse over live streaming or vi-deo recording of the pro-ceedings continued.

ing cannot be allowed in-side the Chief Minister's re-sidence because of

Ms. Banerjee came out of her house, and urged the doctors to come inside and have tea even if they did not wish to hold a meeting. "I request you, please come in. If you don't wish to have a meetdon't wish to have a meet-ing, have a cup of tea. I have been waiting for two hours. My Chief Secretary, my DG police, my IB head, my Home Secretary are all waiting for you. I gave um-brellas to all of you, so you do not get wet. There are arrangements for you to sit," the Chief Minister was heard urging the protest-

ing doctors.

Ms. Banerjee said the video of the meeting can only be shared after taking permission from the Supreme Court as the matter the parties record the vi-deo, which the administra-tion said cannot be al-lowed. After we gave up the demands of video re-cording and live streaming,





is sub judice. The doctors said when they finally agreed to hold a meeting without live streaming and video recording, the admi-nistration told them that it was "too late". "We urged for live streaming which the administration denied. Then we urged to let both the native record the vi-

the administration said it was too late," a representa-tive of the protesting doc-tors said.

After waiting outside the Chief Minister's residence for three hours, the doc-tors returned disappointed but not demotivated.

Many protesting docrase watching the live coverage of their fellow colleagues negotiating outside Ms. Ba-nerjee's residence broke

'Last attempt'
The visit of the doctors to
the Chief Minister's residence on Saturday came
after Ms. Banerjee went to nerjee's residence broke into tears but promised to keep fighting. A protesting day. The State's Chief Se-

FORMER PRINCIPAL HELD
PAGE 4

U.S. calls upon India to ban Russian state media network RT

As the U.S. ramped up its efforts to ban and block the Russian state media network RT globally, sources told The Hindu that the U.S. officials have spoken to the Ministry of External Affairs about joining their actions against what they call "Russian disinformation" by reworking accredit tion", by revoking accredi-tations and designating their journalists under the "Foreign Missions Act". However, while the Ministry has been silent on the sue, officials said the delevant to India, while a former diplomat said ban

ning media organisations showed "double stan-dards" by Western cretary, Manoj Pant, had extended the invitation after the West Bengal Junior Countries.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Binime welcoming Ms. Baner-jee's visit but insisted on an audience with her to discuss their dermands. The ing the doctors to return to work, said that her visit was the "last attempt" to resolve the crisis. dards" by Western countries.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced further sanctions against RT, claiming the media organisation, with offices around the world including in India, was the "de facto arm of Russia's intelligence apparatus." BT and the Bus.

charge. In an official res-ponse, a senior RT editor accused the U.S. govern-



ment of "paranoia" and "being terrified of any truly dissenting voice". The U.S. State Depart

ment said it had launched a "joint diplomatic cam paign" along with the U.K. and Canada to "rally allies and partners around the world to join us in address-

world to Join us in addressing the threat posed by RT
and other machinery of
Russian disinformation
and covert influence".
Former Ambassador to
Russia and France Kanwai
to curtail and censor Russian media organisations
to curtail and censor Russian media organisations
damaged America's "own
values", even as the U.S.
government said it supports freedom of speech.
"India will obviously noc-

Gaza rescuers say 11 from one family killed in Israeli air strike



ISLAMABAD

Pakistan removes special representative to Afghanistan



Myanmar junta makes rare request for foreign aid to cope with floods



nance Mohamed Shateeq ruled out a possible default and pointed to "crucial steps" taken by the govern-ment towards fiscal conso-lidation and reform.

The top officials' assu-rance comes days after rat-

ing agency Moody's down-graded the island country's

Parliament or People's Majlis as well – but cur-rently faces a daunting challenge as the Indian

Ocean archipelago grap-ples with high external

netary Fund (IMF), but there is no immediate plan

debt. The Muizzu adminis ration is taking advice from the International Mo-

Maldives says it is 'well

prepared' to avert default

Australia PM hits back at Musk after 'fascists' remark about govt.



Russia, Ukraine swap 206 **POWs in UAE-brokered deal**

The Russians released in the swap were captured during Ukraine's incursion into Kursk region, nile some of the Ukrainians freed had been prisoners since Moscow seized Azovstal in May 2022

oscow and Kylv
swapped 103 prisoners of war
each on Saturday in a deal
brokered by the United
Arab Emirates (UAE), a
rare moment of coordination between the two warring sides as Russia pushes

ahead in east Ukraine. The Russians released in the swap were captured during Ukraine's incursion into the Kursk region, Moscow said, while some of the Ukrainians freed had heen held prisoner since Moscow seized the Azovstal steel plant in May 2022. "Another 103 soldiers

Back home: A volunteer hugs a Ukrainian prisoner of war following a swap at an undisclosed location in Ukraine. APP

Russia confirmed it had

"handed over" 103 Ukrai-nian Army prisoners, and received 103 Russian servi-

cemen captured by Kyiv in its Kursk offensive in

dymyr Zelenskyy said on regions," he added.

Telegram.

Among the freed were 82 privates and sergeants as well as 21 officers, Mr.

Zelenskyy said. "The defenders of Kyiv,

have managed to swap hundreds of prisoners throughout the two-andhalf-year conflict - often in deals brokered by the Unit-ed Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia or Turkiye. The anafter Mr. Zelenskyy said 49 Ukrainian POWs had been

Ukrainian POWS had been returned from Russia. The UAE's Foreign Mi-nistry hailed the deal as a "success" and thanked both sides for their cooper-ation on Saturday.

Russia says it recaptured a village in east Ukraine

Agence France-Presse

Despite global lenders and Despite global lenders and rating agencies flagging a "high risk" of debt distress in the Maldives, the go-vernment said it is well Russia said on Saturday vernment said it is well prepared to stave off a fi-nancial meltdown. Addressing Colombo-based presspersons on Fri-day evening, Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Za-meer and Minister of Fi-nance Mohamed Shafeeq ruled out a possible default

Russia said on Saturday
that it had recaptured
another village in eastern
that it had recaptured
another village in eastern
that it is not a second as a second as a true of advances.
"The locality of Zhelanne
Pershe in Utrainian) was
and decialve operations of
the southern units," the
Defence Ministry said.

The village is located in
The village is located in
important logistical hub

important logistical hub for the Ukrainian Army. Russian forces have advanced rapidly in the east

ern region of Donetsk in re-cent weeks, putting pressure on a Ukrainian graded the island country's credit rating and warned of a full-blown debt crisis and possible default, amid looming deadlines for fo-reign debt servicing. President Mohamed Muizzu assumed office in November 2023 after a big election win – he has a comfortable majority in Parliament or People's pressure on a Ukrainian Army that is short of both soldiers and weapons. The Kremlin regularly claims its Army has cap-tured small villages in east-ern Ukraine.

Helping hands: Imports-reliant Maldives has borrowed heavily over the years for infrastructure and other needs. AFP

development. "Both India and China are very sensi-tive to our challenge and are willing to help," Mr. Za-meer said, pointing to "many options" on the table, including a possible debt freeze, currency swaps, and local currency settlements. "We will discuss these as and when there is a need."

Agreement signed On Friday, the Maldives's Ministry of Economic De-Market of Economic De-day, and the Market of Economic an agreement with the Pe-ople's Bank of China to es-tablish a local currency set-tlement framework. Authorities are in talks with India for a similar ar-

rangement. "We are already taking all the necessary steps in cluding reform of State-Owned Enterprises and our health sector. We are our health sector. We are switching from blanket to targeted subsidies and ra-penditure. Mr. Shafeeq said. Following the down-grade by Moody's, the Fi-nance Ministry said it was al and multilateral partners to meet the financing re-quirements, and that a "strong performance" in was expected to boost there is no immediate plan to sign up for its pro-gramme, the Ministers said, expressing confi-said, expressing confi-said, expressing confi-partners would step in. China is the Maldives's largest creditor and India is another low lender. The configuration of the configuration of projects that the govern-ment hopes will aid better connectivity and economic

was expected to boost growth.

seen an uptick in 2024. Chinese arrivals lead the list, contributing 12% of vis-itors, while arrivals from India declined sharply from 11% of visitors to 6%, the World Bank said in its May 2024 update. The period coincides with strained bilateral ties betstrained bilateral ties bet-ween India and the Mal-dives, on the heels of the "India Out" campaign around Mr. Muizzu's elec-tion last year, and amid controversial statements made by two junior minis-ters in his government that triggered a call to "boycott Maldives" within India. Emphassione that ela-

Emphasising that rela-tions have since seen a marked improvement, Mr. Zameer said Indian tourist arrivals are "picking up w urs are keen to streng

"We have had high-leve engagement", including External Affairs Minister on the sidelines of other

Iran launches new research satellite, puts it into orbit

Agence France-Presse

Iran on Saturday blasted a search satellite into new research satellite into orbit, state media said, in the latest such develop-ment for an aerospace pro-gramme that has long faced Western criticism. "The Chamran-1 re-

search satellite was suc-cessfully launched and put into orbit by the Ghaem-100 carrier," state television said. The satellite, which weighs around 60 kg, is de-

signed to test hardware and software systems for orbital manoeuvre technology, the TV report said.
The device was de-signed and built by Iranian

Electronics Industries affi-iated with the Defence Mi-

Repeated warnings

gy can be used for ballistic nissiles, including ones designed to deliver a nuclear warbead.

ar warnead. Iran has countered that it is not seeking nuclear veapons and that its satellite and rocket launches are for civil or defence pur-

In solidarity



A protester holds a placard reading 'He who sleeps does not consent' in support of Gisele Pelicot in Rennes, France. Drugged by her husband and raped in her sleep for over 10 years. Pelicot attends the trial, becoming the figurehead of fight against chemical submission. APP

France's Le Pen calls for fresh elections next year

Agence France-Presse

The parliamentary leader of France's far-right Na-tional Rally party on Satur-day called for fresh elections next year, just months after snap polls threw the country into political deadlock.

"It's untenable," threetime presidential candidate Marine Le Pen told fellow RN members

"The great country that is France cannot function

poses only.

The Ghaem-100 rocket which carried the latest satellite is manufactured by the aerospace organisation (Guard Corps, an arm of the military. Iran has for years been advancing its aerospace activities, insisting they are indicated by the control of t



Marine Le Pen during the French far-right RN party's parliamentary seminar at the French National Assembly on Saturday, AFP

political impasse, but un-der French law he cannot enact another dissolution

Macron's second and final

political impasse, but under French law he cannot mandate ends. The President had foor at least a year from the "There are 10 months left and I am convinced that at the end of those 10 months there will be new months there will be new ported to run again for President in 20-07, when Mr. Le Pen is largely expected to run again for President in 20-07, when Mr.

German military ships in Taiwan Strait 'increase security risks': China

Agence France-Presse

China on Saturday accused Berlin of heightening se-curity risks in the Taiwan Strait, a day after two German military vessels sailed through the sensitive

ters. German Defence Minisfirmed on Friday that the frigate Baden-Wuerttem berg and the supply vessel Frankfurt am Main sailed

was the first time in more than two decades that Ber-lin's Navy had done so, ac-cording to German media



over the water body separating the island from mainland. REUTERS

reports.

Beijing views Taiwan as a renegade province and claims jurisdiction over the body of water that separates the island from the Chinese mainland. Germany and many other counter all threats and personal transport of many and many other counter all threats and personal maintaining regional peace at the same time".

er countries argue such voyages are usual, citing freedom of navigation. China's Li said on Satur-day that the People's Liber-ation Army had sent sea and air forces to "monitor and warn off" the German vessels.

vocations", Mr. Li added. The two vessels were headed from South Korea to the Philippines, German Defence Ministry officials

said. Mr. Pistorius said on Friday that the course charted by the vessels was "the shortest route".

"It is the safest route of tions. And these are inter national waters, so we are sailing through them," he

Taiwan said earlier this Taiwan said earlier this week that it "welcomes and affirms Germany, along with the United States, Canada and the Netherlands, for taking actions to demonstrate the legal status of the Taiwan Strait as international waters, while defending freedom of navigation and maintainty.

Iran launches new research satellite, puts it into orbit

Agence France-Presse

TEHRAN

Iran on Saturday blasted a new research satellite into orbit, state media said, in the latest such development for an aerospace programme that has long faced Western criticism.

"The Chamran-1 research satellite was successfully launched and put into orbit by the Ghaem-100 carrier," state television said.

The satellite, which weighs around 60 kg, is designed to test hardware and software systems for orbital manoeuvre technology, the TV report said.

The device was designed and built by Iranian Electronics Industries affiliated with the Defence Ministry, state TV said.

Repeated warnings

Western governments including the United States have repeatedly warned Iran against such launches, saying the same technology can be used for ballistic missiles, including ones designed to deliver a nuclear warhead.

Iran has countered that it is not seeking nuclear weapons and that its satellite and rocket launches are for civil or defence purposes only.

The Ghaem-100 rocket which carried the latest satellite is manufactured by the aerospace organisation of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, an arm of the military.

Iran has for years been advancing its aerospace activities, insisting they are in accordance with UNSC resolutions.

CM



LEISURE MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

MIND & GAMES

Green washing

to clean clothes and support nature Page 11

Deciphering comedy in the times of offence and political correctness Page 7

Cong fresh

invested in

WHAT'S INSIDE



SPOTLIGHT, PS Tasting Bharat

How chefs are introducing rustic flavours to urban dwellers in restaurants and fine-dining

WORDS WORTH, PA

Food for thought

An anti-obesity thriller digs we got fat, and are weight-loss



FINES LIKELY FOR ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES

Samsung, Xiaomi colluded salvo: Buch with Amazon, Flipkart: CCI

Smartphone makers told to submit financials for past three fiscal years

New Delhi, September 14

SAMSUNG, XIAOMI AND other smartphone companies colluded with Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart to exclusively

and Walmart's Flagsart to exclusively
firms' Indian websites in breach of
antitrust laws, according to regulatory
firms' and the second of the second of the second of
antitrust laws, according to regulatory
definition of the second of the s

ert said the Indian units of Samsung, mi, Motorola, Vivo, Lenovo and

amazon

like Samsung and Xiaomi in the case could increase their legal and compliance headaches. "Exclusivity in business is anathema, Not only is it against free and fair competition but also against the interest of consumers," CCI's addi-tional director general GV Siva Fraud in identical findings.

Chinese firms PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IN A FRESH round of allegations against Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chairperson Madhabi Buch, the

with China. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh

₹36.9 crore while in flict of interest allega-tions*against Buch, claiming that she, as a whol

tions against Buch, claiming that our, as a more time member and later as Sebi chairperson, trades time member and later as Sebi chairperson, trades to the congress attack comes a day after Buch said shad made all necessary disclosures and compiled with recusal guidelines in dealing with companies such a Mahindra Group that hired her husband, as sh

in identical findings.

Reuters is first to report the smart-

Cash market turnover at

not public. Xiaoni declined to comment, while the other smartphone makers did not respond to requests for comment. Amazara have not so far commented on the reports 'findings, Both the CCI reports said that during investigations Amazon and thouse the control of the commented on the control of the commented on the reports 'findings, Both the CCI reports said that during investigations Amazon and the control of the control of

THE CASH MARKET turnover at the NSE reached ₹200 lakh cr during the January-A

period, surpassing the ₹163.5-lakh crore turns recorded for the entire vear of 2023. This

in lanuary-August 2023. The average daily cash market turnover also

Meanwhile, the cash lakh crore for all of 2023. ₹9,657 crore in 2024.

FY24 sees **GST** evasion double over previous fiscal

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of CST Intelligence (DGGG) has CST intelligence (DGGG) has 2023-24, amounting to ₹2.01 lalch core, which is double the amount detected in the previous fiscal, data of FY24 showed.

The report shows that online againing, BFS lare the sectors most prone to evasion. In FY24, ₹51,875 real money online gaming's sector, "real money online gaming's ector,"

and \$18,961 crore in BFSL.

Among goods, iron, copper
scrap and alloys are the ones mos
prone to evasion (\$16,806 crore
followed by pan massla, tobacce
cigarette and beedi (\$5,794 crore
said the report.

In FY24, voluntary taxes o
\$26,605 crore were paid, up from
\$20,713 crore

₹20,713 crore in 2022-23. Online gaming

Further, about 46% of the evasion

to non-pay-ment of tax (through clandestine supply and undervaluation), 20% related to fake input tax credit, and

19% to wrong availment/non-reversal of ITC, the report said. The detection of GST evasion by DGGI has gradually seen an increase since the rollout of GST in 2017. In FY18, ₹7,879 crore was FY21 of ₹31,908 crore. In FY22 GST evasion worth ₹50.325 cror was detected, the report showed. The report said the DGGI's use

evasion tactics, enabling targets enforcement actions. On the online gaming industry

Indian car buyers getting upwardly mobile, and how

K-PRINCIPAL OF RG AR CHARGED WITH APE-MURDER TOO

NEWS

and the CBI on Saturday added rape and murder charge against former RG Kar spital principal Sandip aid. In the CBI of the

ERRORISM REATHING ITS AST IN J&K: PM

ASSERTING THAT terrorism is taking its last breath in Jammu & Kashmir, PM Narendra odi said his government ojected new leadership to ojected new leadership to unter dynastic politics that s destroyed "this beautiful gion". Addressing an election by in Doda, Modi also terated his government's

Average selling

VIKRAM CHAUDHARY New Delhi, September 14

past five years. According to data shared bytop carmalers, the average selling price of a car in India in FV24 was \$11.5 laid, which is a sharper of the price of a car in India in FV24, a laid, which is a sharper of the price lakh. In FY19, the co

lakh. In FY19, the corresponding figures were just 15% for cars priced over ₹10 lakh and 85% under ₹10 lakh, "they said.

Carmakers have attributed this growth to a rise in input costs of cars, thereby increasing their sticker price, rising interest in 5U% which are priced more than sedam and hatchhacks in the same seg.

₹4 lakh in 5 years

SPENDING BIG under ₹10 lakh Average price of a car

price of vehicles up

THE AVERAGE SELLING price of a passenger vehicle in India has increased by almost ₹4 lakh in the past five years. According to data

15% 47% FY19

ment, a strong GDP growth seen after the lockdown, rise in the num-ber of women buyers, growth in corporate earnings, and a YOLO

FY24 11.5

Share of cars priced above ₹10 lakh

Indians after Covid-19. Madan Sabnavis, chief econo-Madani Sabnavis, chief econo-mist, Bank of Baroda, said after the lockdown there has been a clear move towards purchase of pre-mium cars and SUVs. "As soon as one starts working, there is a desire to own a big car—a webicle thas stands out. Banks and NBFCs provide the

tor, young people have high pur chasing power, and that's getting reflected in booming sales of pre

reflected in booming sales of pre-mium cars and SUVs." Carmakers added that SUVs today form almost 55% of car

NSE hits ₹200 lakh crore

represents more than a doubling (104%) of the ₹97.75-lakh crore turnov

ncreased by 81%, rising from ₹66,471 crore in 2023 to ₹1.20 lakh crore in 2024 o far on the NSE.

market turnover at the BSE reached ₹16 lakh crore in the first eight months of 2024, compared to ₹12.4



2019 83.9 34,256

When home away from home goes beyond a tagline

Hotels offering iites functioning as illy equipped homes

BUREAU w Delhi, September 14

HEN THE TAJ Mahal Hotel in

EXTENDED STAY

In May. The Oberoi 20 residential suites

has been offering residences since 2010 at Hyatt Regency Pune, and Park Hyatt Hyderabad since 2012. At Andaz Delhi, a Hyatt hotel, 125

At Tai Mahal Hotel, general 80% corporate bookings, and gen-eral manager Hardip Marwah is

looking to improve this figure too given the hefty revenue the hotel of the hotel o enue from the suite, the collateral needs of an office get us good rev-enue from food and beverage, room bookings, conferences, etc., said Marwah. With a sizeable planes of the state of the six now plan-rage of the state of the six now plan-rant in the hotel to make them feel even more at home.

idences at the hotel have an 80-85% occupancy, with 95% financialexp.epaprin

sense tes. Some the process of the peo-ple whose houses are being reno-vated or built, etc.

The average stay is for a month, and guests have access to breakfast plus the Taj Club Lounge that offers high tea and compli-mentary cocktails. The tariffs range from about ₹20,000 for a single room to ₹40,000 for a dou-bles," he told FE.

bles," he told F.E.

IHCL also offers residency
hotels in the Taj Wellington Mews
at Mumbai and Chennai which
include fully serviced apartments.
Taj 51 Buckingham Gate, London,
and The Pierre, New York, too. Older
hotels like the Taj Bengal in Kolkata
have also been renovated to
include residences.



CBI gets custody of former principal NEWS » PAGE 4





Kejriwal to quit as Delhi CM, seeks early polls

AAP chief says he will submit his resignation in two days, and the party will elect a new leader to function during the election, which he wants to be held in November along with the polls in Maharashtra: says he chose to resign, less than 48 hours after being granted bail by the SC in the excise policy case, to styrnie BJP's attempt to break AAP

Realising the rural-urban continuum A newer way for India to address challenges



INSIDE



Vij stakes claim to CM post if BJP wins in Harvana

Former Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij has thrown his hat into the ring in the BJP, staking claim to the coveted chie ministerial post ahead of Haryana polls. » PAGE 2

SpaceX private astronauts return safely

WASHINGTON The SpaceX Polaris Dawn mission, whose crew conducted the first spaces tions are held."

tions are held."
His announcement, which took the public and prise, comes less than 48 hours after the Supreme Court granted him bail foliation of the held and the held and the held along the held along the held along with the Delhi lequer policy case, currently under interest of the held along with agencies. Mr. Kejriwal called for the Delhi election to be held along with a scheduled for November, rather than waiting until rather than waiting until

"I am going to resign from the Chief Minister's post, and I will not sit in the Chief Minister's chair until the public delivers its verdict on whether Kejri-wal is honest," he told February 2025. The BJP termed his resignation plan a "conspira-cy to hide the blemishes of workers at the Aam Aadmi Party's office.
"A meeting will be called with all Aam Aadmi Party MLAs to choose a new leader who will serve corruption", arguing that Delhi voters had already rejected Mr. Kejriwal's plea for a certificate of honesty in the recent Lok Sabha election, where the BIP



won all seven seats in the capital.

"Save democracy" Mr. Kejriwal said he had chosen to resign now, rather than during his time in jail, to "save democracy" and resist the BJP's attempts to break the AAP by purchasing MLAs and ar-resting Opposition Chief

Congress calls it 'drama', BJP says it is a 'confession'

The BJP on Sunday said Arvind Kejriwal's decision was nothing but a "confession of his crime". while the Congress called it a "political drama" and said he

This is not the first time that Mr. Kejriwal has re-signed as Chief Minister. After the 2013 Delhi Assembly election, when the AAP made its debut and came to power with the help of the Congress, Mr. Kejriwal resigned within 49 days and sought a re-election.
The AAP returned to

power in 2015, winning 67

of the 70 seats in the Delhi

of the 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly, many from the post of Chief Minister after remaining in power for 49 days. I resigned for my principles. No one had estigned on my own Heft the chief Minister's chair on the Minister's chair on post or money. We only have a passion to do so-mething for the country," Mr. Kejrwad said.

'Trial by fire'
He emphasised that he had
not entered politics for money or power, but to serve
the nation. "When Lord Rama returned from his 14-year exile, Sita had to un-dergo an agni pariisha [trial by fire]. Today, I have returned from jail, and I am ready to undergo my own agni pariisha," he

said. In a sharp attack on said. In a sharp attack on the Union government, Mr. Kejriwal compared the cur-rent BJP-led regime to Brit-ish colonial rule, recalling the treatment of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh while

ngnter Bnagat Singh while in prison.
"When Bhagat Singh was in jail, the British al-lowed him to write letters, and they were delivered. But this government is more tyrannical than the British. A letter I wrote on August 15 to the Lieure. was returned, and I was warned that if I dared to write to L-G Saab again, my family visits would be stopped. Even the British could not have imagined that 95 years after India's Independence, a ruler more cruel and oppressive than them would govern this country," he said

Bomb explodes at Minister's house + in Manipur: no casualties reported

A bomb exploded at the house of Manipur Tran-sport Minister Khashim Vashum in Ukhrul town in the State on Saturday night. The Minister was in the State capital, Imphal, about 80 km away. The police said no one

was injured, and the resi-dential complex in the Hamleikhong area in the Naga-dominated head-quarters of Ukhrul district did not suffer much damage in the low-intensity blast.

blast.
"We are trying to find out who was behind the blast," an officer said. Mr. Vashum, who also handles the Veterinary and

UKI-(

wo days after he walked out of priwalked out of primain announced on Sundaythat he would resign in two
days. He called for an early
antonic apital, allowing
the people of Delhi to decide if he was honest.

"I am going to resign

A. Birnol Akaijam, MP for Inner Manipur, addressing a sit-in in Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHVAP

ruling Bharativa Janata Par ty. This was the second such incident after August such incident after August 10 when an explosion at the house of former MLA Yamthong Haokip in the Kuki-Zo-majority Kangpok-pi district killed his wife, Sapam Charubala. The Meitel-dominated

phal East, Imphal West, and Thoubal, three of the five districts in the valley, but was relaxed for a few hours to enable people to

hours to enable people to buy essentials.

The Manipur govern-ment extended the suspen-ed to the suspen-data services, including VSAT and VPN services, in these three districts and Bishnupur and Kakching till September 20. The or-der signed by Home Commissioner N. Ashok Kumar, however, sald the ban would not apply to, or af-fect, a September 12 order regarding "conditional lift-ing of the suspension of In-ternet services through broadband". broadband". Another development

Another development in the conflict-scarred Ma-nipur was the rescue of a 42-year-old Kuki woman from a non-Kuki market-

Sit-in at New Delhi The Imphal-based Coordi-nating Committee on Mani-pur Integrity and the Delhi Meetei Coordinating Committee organised a sit-in at Jantar Mantar at New Delhi on Sunday over the recent spate of violence in Manipur. The protest was at-tended by the Congress's Inner Manipur MP, A. Bimo Akoijam. He said the Centre could not shrug off responsibility for the con

responsibility for the con-flict in Manipur continuing for as long as it has. Criticising the State and Union governments' han-dling of the conflict, he said, "Action has to be desaid, "Action has to be de-cisive and judicious. What is happening is that the sit-uation and mistrust are be-ing aggravated."

Day of Democracy

the country: if the Prime Minister files a fake case

against you and imprisons you, do not resign. Run the

government from jail. Do not resign because our

Constitution, our country,

more important than anything else," Mr. Kejri-

and our democracy are



Nipah death confirmed in Malappuram;

150 contacts asked to isolate themselves

CIC asks Railway to disclose list of staff with disabilities

S. Vijay Kumar

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has ad-vised the Thiruvananthapuram division of the South ern Railway to disclose the list of employees who have secured jobs under the category of people with dis-abilities, amid concern about fake disability

The CIC ruling came in response to a Right to Information petition filed by M. Aravind who sought the names of such employees, and their disability certificates, expressing concern about fraudulent practices in the recruimment process.

In his order, information community of the control of

CM (CM)

Citing recent case of fraud. Commissioner says it is in public interest to reveal

the recent case of an All In dia Service officer who was dismissed from service, in dismissed from service, in an apparent reference to IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, who allegedly submitted false certificates to gain benefits meant for people with benchmark disabilities, and those from the Other Backward Class of the Company of the Company of the Sackward Class of the Sackward Class of the Sackward Class of the Company of the Compa

sised the need to publicly disclose the information requested, to ensure tran-sparency and probity.

Privacy concerns way's Chief Public Inforon Officer (CPIO) had mation Officer (CPIO) had refused to release the requested information, cit-ing privacy concerns and the lack of a larger public

Sharing personal details of employees could lead to an unwarranted invasion

an unwarranted invasion of privacy, he said.
However, Mr. Tiwari recognised the gravity of the issue raised by the complainant. The appointment of ineligible individuals deprives deserving candidates of their rightful opportunities, he said.

Maharashtra polls likely in second week of Nov.: Shinde

The Hindu Bureau Dropping hints about the

that it would likely be held

vember and preferably in

vember and preferably in two phases. "Assembly elections are likely to be held in the se-cond week of November. A

Health authorities in Kerala on Sunday confirmed that a 24-year-old man from Wandoor in Malappuupcoming Assembly elec-tion, Maharashtra Chief Miram district in the State had died from Nipah infecnister Eknath Shinde told Health Minister Veena

Health Minister Veenia George said tests at the Na George said tests at the Na Pune, had confirmed it to be a Nipah case. Health of the National States are to the National States are to the National States are to the National States this symptoms. Nipah was suspected after he showed of the National States The health authorities sent the serum samples to the virology laboratory at cond week of November. A election held in two-phases would be preferable. Merit and a good strike rate will be the key criteria for seat-sharing among the Mahayuti aliles. The seat-sharing will be finalised in the coming 8 to 10 days," he said.

Sale of masks has picked up pace near a Kozhikode hospital in the wake of the Nipah death in Malappuram. K. RAGESH

tion from the Pune insti-tute, 16 committees were the Government Medical College Hospital, Nozhi-kode.

Saturday evening.

On Saturday evening to be sevening to be sevenied that the samples had tested positive. The Health Department swung into action by following the Nipah protocol. While the department watted for final confirmaformed under the protocol at night.

Contact list District Medical Officer R. Renuka said the man had sought treatment at four private hospitals, and had travelled to different places

Hence, as many as 150 persons were identified in the victim's primary contact list and instructed to isolate themselves. As five of them had shown mild symptoms, their samples

Dr. Renuka said all per sons likely to have come in to contact with the victin were being traced and ob-served, adding that there

was no need to worry. On July 21, a 14-year-old boy from Pandikkad, about boy from Pandikkad., about 10 km from Wandoor, had died from Nipah infection at Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhi-kode. The boy's death had triggered an alarm across the district, and authori-ties had imposed restric-tions in two panchayats.

Day of Democracy



Dasara elephants join a function in front of the Mysuru Palace on Sunday to mark the International Day of Democracy. M.A. SRIRAM

Every year on September 15, people around the world come together to celebrate the International Day of Democracy.

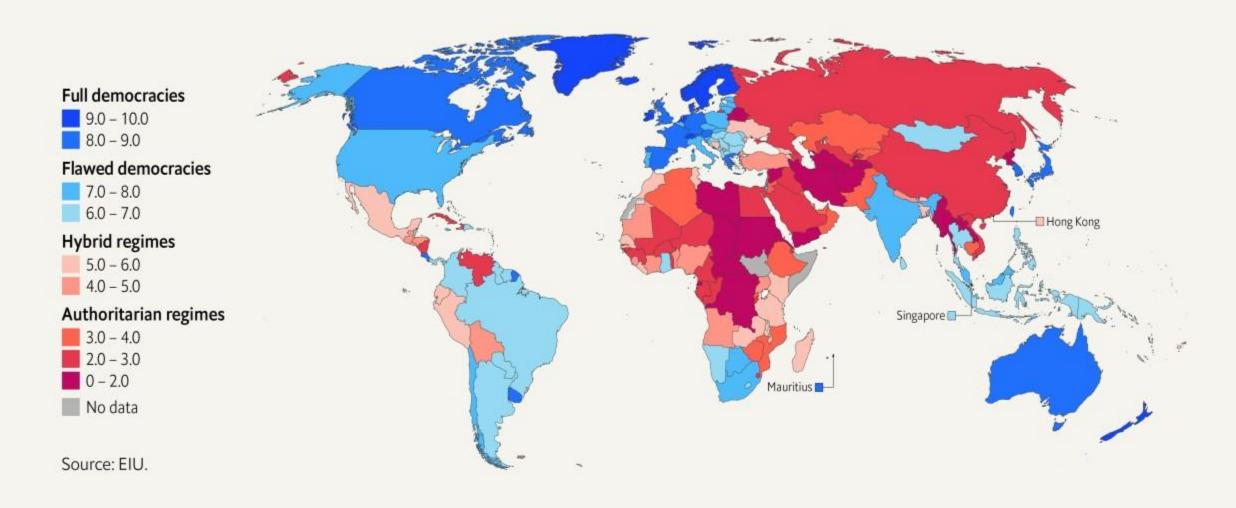
This special day was established by the UN General Assembly in 2007 to promote and strengthen democratic values.

International Day of Democracy 2024: Theme

This year's theme for the International Day of <u>Democracy</u> is 'Artificial Intelligence as a tool for good governance', with a focus on ensuring effective governance of AI at all levels, including internationally, to harness its benefits while mitigating its risks.

Democracy Index 2023

Only 8% of the world's population lives in a "full democracy"

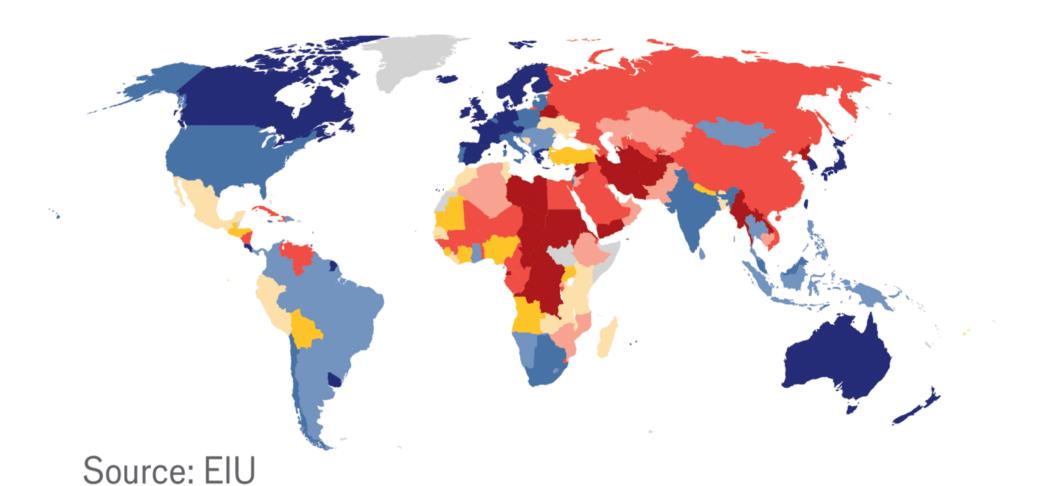


Democracy index, 2023

Authoritarian regimes

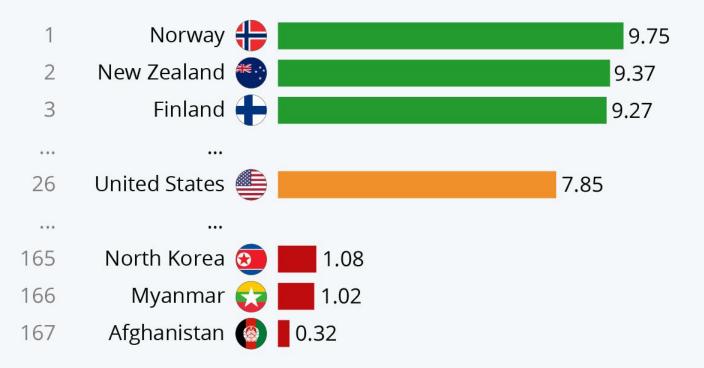
Hybrid regimes

Democracies Flawed | Full



The Best and Worst Countries For Democracy

2021 Democracy Index score (10 = full democracy, 0 = authoritarian regime)*



^{*} Takes into account electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, government functioning, political participation and political culture. Source: Economist Intelligence Unit

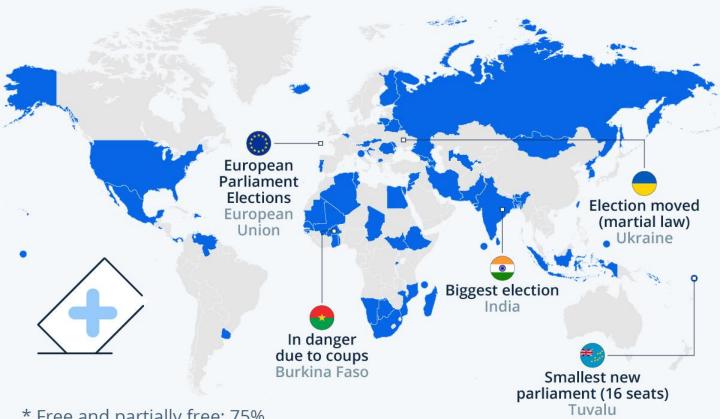




2024: The Super Election Year

Countries where a national election is/was held in 2024

Expected number of voters: **2B** (~25% of world pop.) Share of free elections*: **38%**



* Free and partially free: 75%

General, parliamentary, presidential and economic union elections

Sources: Anchor Change Election Cycle Tracker, Statista research





The World's Biggest Democracies

Estimated population of the world biggest democracies in 2024 (in million people)



^{*} probably in October, no later than January 2025 Countries listed as democracies on EIU 2022 Democracy Index (latest available) Sources: Economist Intelligence Unit, UN Population Division









INBRIDE



GoM to review GST rates on health and life insurance

The GST Council constituted a E-member Group of Ministers on Sunday to suggest GST rates on premiums of various health and life insurance products. It will submit its regort by October 30, the convener of the Gold. The panel has the convener of the Gold. The panel has the convener of the Gold. The panel has the Bengal, Karnariaka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Gold. The The GST Council constituted a 13-member Group

Technical issue delays IndiGo flight to Doha for 18 hours

An IndiGo flight from Mumbai to Doha got delayed for about 18 hours on Sunday before it took off from the Mumbai airport at around 9.45 p.m. It was originally scheduled to depart around 4 a.m., sources said. Passengers waited inside the aircraft for more than four hours on Sunday times but had to finally be called off due to the time lag on account of various procedural delays," the airline said in a statement. While apologising for the inconvenience, IndiGo said its eam offered assistance to the affected customer

10 people killed as three-storey house collapses in Meerut

Women and children are among the deceased: District Magistrate says process under way to provide financial assistance; Cong., SP express grief

Press Trust of India



Meerut in Uttar Prädesh on Saturday, the district admi-nistration said on Sunday. District Magistrate Dee-pak Meena said the house at Zakir Nagar collapsed in the afternoon, trapping 15 people under the debris-tion started, the relatives gave information about 15

tion started, the relatives gave information about 15 people. Three managed to scape when the building was collapsing, he said.

It while five persons are alive. The rescue operations will continue till the entire debris is removed, the officer said, adding that the bodies had been kept at the said of the properties a post-mortem examina-tion was being conducted.

Mr. Meena said a process was under way to pro-vide financial assistance of ₹4 lakh to the kin of the deceased from the natural ca-lamity fund and ₹1.2 lakh



house. Action was also being taken to provide compensation to the affected
family for the animals that
died in the incident, he
said.

The Samajwadi Party
and Congress expressed
sorrow, and demanded
that the covernment pro-

that the government provide proper compensation to the affected. The district administra-

tion released a list of the According to it, those

who died have been identi-fied as Naffo alias Naffas, 65; her son Sajid, 40; Sai-lin the rescue operation.

ma, 35, wife of Sajid; Sania, 15, daughter of Sajid; Saqib, 12, son of Sajid; Farhana, 27; Alisa, 25; Ria, 10; Him-

ing Meerut Zone Addition-al Director-General of Police D.K. Thakur, Divisional Commissioner Selva Kuand Senior Superintendent of Police Vipin Tada reached the spot to monitor the rescue operation. The NDRF, fire brigade and

Policeman among 5 of family killed over 'witchcraft' in Sukma

Five members of a family, including a head constable of the Chhattisgarh police, were allegedly beaten to death over suspicion of

i; their son Mausam Buch

cha, 34, who is the head constable; Mausam Buch-cha's wife Mausam Arjo, 32; and Karka Lachchi, 43.

Mr. Chavan said after a couple of children died in the village, the villagers

the local priest, who point-ed to the alleged witchcraft

death over suspicion of practising witchcraft in a village in Sukma district on Sunday, the police said.

Sunday, the police said of them women, were residents of Etak village in the Konta area. They were attacked by fellow villagers who suspected that their support of the control of the co "On Sunday, a meeting was held which was atwas held which was at-tended by nearly 25 peo-ple. Once the victims, in-cluding the head constable in plainclothes reached changing the nead containing the region of the containing soon turned violent hings soon turned violent hings soon turned violent containing soon turned violent containing soon turned violent containing the containin

night.

So far, five men, from the village, have been arrested for the murders but Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said that there were around 15 people who attacked the victims with batons and other weanons. ther weapons.
The police identified the deceased as Mausam Kan-na, 60; his wife Mausam Bi-

soon after the incident. The incident comes

A priest had held the

victims responsible for a few deaths in

the village in the

sam Buchcha's family.

days after a similar case was reported in Balodabawas reported in instonded and a comment of the comm mily practised black magic. ta," said the EoI request

I&B Ministry to use AI tool to predict media trends

Devesh K. Pandey

The Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minis-try is planning to introduce an artificial intelligence (AD) and machine learning (ML)-powered integrated dashboard with the capa-bility to analyse recent news reports for forecast-ing emerging trends. The tool is expected to enhance the Ministry's ability to swiftly respond to such trends. An Al&ML-based platform for multilingual

and maintenance of the in-tegrated dashboard. "In today's media land-

scape, staying ahead of

Power deal between Maharashtra govt.. Adani rigged: Cong.

Press Trust of India

With the Adani Group win-ning a bid to supply 6,600 MW of bundled renewable and thermal power to Mah-arashtra, the Congress on Sunday alleged that it was a "rigged deal" facilitated by "rigged deal" facilitated by the Mahayuti government, which it claimed was "tot-tering towards a landslide defeat" in the upcoming Assembly election.

The Opposition party's attack came after the Adani Group won a bid to supply 6,600 MW of bundled re-newable and thermal pownewable and thermal pow-er to Maharashtra for the long term after its quote of ₹4.08 per unit beat the likes of JSW Energy and Torrent Power. Reacting to the develop-ment Congress seneral or



havuti Government is Maharashtra totters to wards a landslide defeat, this is what they choose to do with their last few days do with their last few days in power. Yet another Mo-dani enterprise undoubt-edly! Shocking details of this rigged deal will soon start tumbling out." Supplies are to start within 48 months from the date of award of the letter of intent.

Across
1 Vehicle reverses on street at a circle, basically near a small

powerhouse (10)
6 Girl at a US city takes a ship (4)
10 Registration made with specialis aged people without 500 (9)
11 Mark found in Insta intermittenti

CM (IIII)

Two Navy officers to embark on gruelling blue-water global voyage

Press Trust of India

After three years of prepa-

After three years of preparations, two women officers of the Indian Navy are set to embark soon on an arduous blue-water voyage around the world.

Lt. Commanders A. Roopa and K. Dilna will be undertaking the expedition of circumnavigating the globe onboard INSV

the globe onboard LNSY Tarini, Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madha-Li, Commander Dina, who halls from Kozhikode, was commissioned into the Nathan Commander Dina, who halls from Kozhikode, was commissioned into the Kathan Charles of the Commander Roops, a na-tive of Puduclearry, joined father, G.P. Alagirisamy, was in the Indian Air Force. The two officers have been preparing for



Tough mission: The two officers have been preparing for the Sagar Parikroma expedition for the past three years. AN belt," Commander Madh-

the Sagar Parikrama expedition for the past three years, Commander Madh-wal said.

wal said.

"Sagar Parikrama
would be a gruelling
voyage requiring extreme
skills, physical fitness and
mental alertness. The officers have been training rigorously and gained thousands of miles of
experience under their

Brazil, via Cape Town in South Africa, and back last

year. Thereafter, they undertook a sailing expedition from Goa to Port Blair and back in double-handed mode. Further, the duo successfully undertook a sortie from Goa to Port Louis, Mauritius again in the same mode early this

year. "Indian Navy has made significant efforts to revital-ise the sailing tradition, emphasising its commitment to preserve maritime heritage and promote sea-manship skills," the Navy spokesperson said.

wal said.

The officers are undergoing training under the mentorship of ace circumnavigator and Golden Globe Race hero, retired Commander Abhilash Tomy. The officers, as part of a six-member crew, had participated in transceanic expedition from Goa to Rio de Janeiro in spokesperson sald.
He said the Indian Navy
has taken a centre stage in
ocean sailing expeditions
through the pioneering efforts of sail training shipsINS Tarangini and INS Sudarshini, and circumnavigating aboard INSV Mhadel
and INSV Tarini.

India sends supplies to typhoon-hit Laos. Myanmar, Vietnam

try of External Affairs an-nounced. Following this, the Indian Navy and the In-dian Air Force swung into action, deploying ships and aircraft to ferry the assistance.

Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos. Ten tonnes of aid, in-cluding dry ration, cloth-ing and medicines left for Myanmar onboard INS Sat-pura on September 15. IAF is carrying 35 tonnes of aid India on Sunday launched Operation Sadbhav to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (MADRO to Loso, Myanmar, and Vletnam that have been list by severe flooding ers, blankess, kitchen uteriers, kitchen been lat by sewere hooding the committed and the committed as with the committed as will be comprising genset, water purification items, hygien sistance to Laos, the Ministry of External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos, "External Affairs and selepting bag sent for Laos," External Affairs and selepting b

said in a post on X. The IAF has deployed its dian Air Force swung into action, deploying ships and sircraft to ferry the assistance.

The constituting of the state of

To solve this puzzle online. get across to our crossword site. get https://grap.opget.link/jb/Tr

With Delhi, Thane too served English dish (4-2-3-4) Grasped new gun after corps left (5) Let off former lover, one using speed (9) Thracian gladiator to wrestle with wild cat at America (9) Bring the foot down slowly, tread on mat, prostrate in the

22 Aunt roasting some lamb, gets burned leading to suffocation

(13)
24 A German had a gemstone (5)
25 Smoking nicotine around hospi Smoking nicotine a to trouble (2,4,3)

to trouble (2,4,3)

26 A piece of satin or same type of fabric (4)

27 Persistent and aggressive sellers hound a specialist (10) Down

1. Ice mixed with some cocaine? PT miss has doubt (10)

2. Predatory man seen in pub, Dracula lacking love, is drunk (9)

3. Powerful, legendary archer in Germany (7)

4. Article on a tree abridged at the stage (7)

4 Article on a tree abridged at the stage [7]
5 One then got tails cut working constantly [2,3,2)
6 One then got tails cut woulder and nothing changes [5]
7 One the got tails cut woulder and nothing changes [5]
8 As an animal loses the first step on liand. [6]
13 __unammed Pole was confused and received a few directions [10]

(10) Heartless. Hate police officer in England; original inhabitant (9)

16 Heartless. Hate police officer in England; original inhabitant
18 Lathe operator in a bad pitch [6]
19 Hint at criminal's message (7)
20 Travel stop, having tes, in conversation with the French (7)
21 Triages conducted at island, perhaps (7)
22 A sbuggish person uncovers cycling (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to previous puzzle (GE 18 GE 10 G

FAITH

Id, a day of rejoicing

Id-e Milad, Milad-un-Nabi, Mawlid which falls on September 16 is a very special occasion for Muslims and commemorates the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad who is regarded as the last Prophet sent by Allah. This day usually falls in the third month of the Islamic calendar Ra bi' al-awwal on the 12th day. In the beginning it was a day of mourning in memory of the Prophet. However, it is believed that by the 13th century a transition took place in observing the 12th day of Rabi' al-awwal from mourning to

It was the Fatimid Caliphate in Egypt who formally de-clared Id-ul-Milad a day of commemoration of the Pro-phet and this day has evolved since then across the Islamic

This day is celebrated by both the Shias and the Sunnis across the world. It is a day for cleaning and decorating homes, wearing new clothes, exchanging greetings and holding feasts. The day marks participation in large probability of the state of the

India sends supplies to typhoon-hit Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

India on Sunday launched Operation Sadbhav to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) to Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam that have been hit by severe flooding caused by Typhoon Yagi.

India has committed \$1 million worth of flood relief assistance to Vietnam and \$1,00,000 worth of assistance to Laos, the Ministry of External Affairs announced. Following this, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force swung into action, deploying ships and aircraft to ferry the assistance.

In solidarity

"Demonstrating our solidarity with the people affected by Typhoon Yagi, India is dispatching aid to

Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos. Ten tonnes of aid, including dry ration, clothing and medicines left for Myanmar onboard INS Satpura on September 15. IAF is carrying 35 tonnes of aid comprising water purification items, water containers, blankets, kitchen utensils, solar lanterns for Vietnam. Ten tonnes of aid comprising genset, water purification items, hygiene supplies, mosquito nets, blankets and sleeping bags sent for Laos," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in a post on X.

The IAF has deployed its C-17 Globemaster aircraft for the HADR operations to airlift aid to Vietnam and Laos. Swift and efficient loading and coordination was carried out by the C-17 team at the Hindan Air Force Station, an IAF official said.





Two Navy officers to embark on gruelling blue-water global voyage

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

After three years of preparations, two women officers of the Indian Navy are set to embark soon on an arduous blue-water voyage around the world.

Lt. Commanders A. Roopa and K. Dilna will be undertaking the expedition of circumnavigating the globe onboard *INSV Tarini*, Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said on Sunday.

Lt. Commander Dilna, who hails from Kozhikode, was commissioned into the Navy in June 2014. Her father, the late Devadasan, served the Indian Army. Lt. Commander Roopa, a native of Puducherry, joined the Navy in June 2017. Her father, G.P. Alagirisamy, was in the Indian Air Force. The two officers have been preparing for



Tough mission: The two officers have been preparing for the *Sagar Parikrama* expedition for the past three years. ANI

the *Sagar Parikrama* expedition for the past three years, Commander Madhwal said.

"Sagar Parikrama would be a gruelling voyage requiring extreme skills, physical fitness and mental alertness. The officers have been training rigorously and gained thousands of miles of experience under their

belt," Commander Madhwal said.

The officers are undergoing training under the mentorship of ace circumnavigator and Golden Globe Race hero, retired Commander Abhilash Tomy. The officers, as part of a six-member crew, had participated in transoceanic expedition from Goa to Rio de Janeiro in

Brazil, via Cape Town in South Africa, and back last year.

Thereafter, they undertook a sailing expedition from Goa to Port Blair and back in double-handed mode. Further, the duo successfully undertook a sortie from Goa to Port Louis, Mauritius again in the same mode early this year.

"Indian Navy has made significant efforts to revitalise the sailing tradition, emphasising its commitment to preserve maritime heritage and promote seamanship skills," the Navy spokesperson said.

He said the Indian Navy has taken a centre stage in ocean sailing expeditions through the pioneering efforts of sail training ships - INS Tarangini and INS Sudarshini, and circumnavigating aboard INSV Mhadei and INSV Tarini.

- Upcoming Global Circumnavigation by Two Women Navy Officers
- Lt. Commanders A. Roopa and K. Dilna of the Indian Navy are set to embark on a challenging bluewater voyage around the world.
- They will be sailing aboard the Indian Navy's vessel INSV Tarini.



- Background of the Officers
- Lt. Commander K. Dilna, from Kozhikode, was commissioned into the Navy in 2014.
- Lt. Commander A. Roopa, from Puducherry, joined the Navy in 2017.
- Both officers come from military families, with K. Dilna's father serving in the Indian Army and A. Roopa's father serving in the Indian Air Force.

The Sagar Parikrama Expedition

- The officers have been preparing for three years for this voyage, named
 Sagar Parikrama, which demands exceptional physical fitness, mental alertness, and sailing skills.
- The expedition is designed to test the limits of the participants' endurance, requiring rigorous training and extensive sailing experience.



Previous Experience and Training

The officers trained under the mentorship of retired Commander Abhilash Tomy, a renowned sailor and Golden Globe Race hero.

They have participated in several trans-oceanic expeditions, including:

- A voyage from Goa to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, via Cape Town in South Africa.
- Sailing expeditions from Goa to Port Blair and from Goa to Port Louis, Mauritius, in double-handed mode.

- Indian Navy's Focus on Sailing Tradition
- The Indian Navy has made significant efforts to revitalize its sailing tradition and promote maritime heritage and seamanship skills.
- The Navy has taken a leading role in ocean sailing expeditions, highlighted by pioneering efforts through INS Tarangini and INS Sudarshini, and global circumnavigations aboard INSV Mhadei and INSV Tarini.



- Consider the following statements regarding the upcoming global voyage of two Indian Navy officers:
- 1.Lt. Commanders A. Roopa and K. Dilna will embark on the blue-water voyage aboard INSV Mhadei.
- 2. The officers have been training for the **Sagar Parikrama** expedition for three years under the mentorship of retired Commander Abhilash Tomy.
- 3. The Indian Navy has been emphasizing sailing traditions and has participated in several global circumnavigation expeditions, including **INSV Tarini**.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3



For BB, it's Now or never as q-comm gains speed



High-level US delegation calls on Yunus in Dhaka

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IN THE NEWS

REVISION OF CPI 2022-23 INPUTS



consumption expenditure survey (HCES) for 2023-24, and a preliminary analysis shows that its results are largely similar to the one of 2022-23, a senior official said, reports Priyansh Verma. So, the eports Priyansi Verma. 30, the 0022-23 survey results are most likely to be used for formulating he new Consumer Price Index. CPI) series to avoid any further delay in its formulation.

PMGE 2

MEP ABOLITION TO BOOST BASMATI RICE EXPORTS

THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE to abolish the minimum export price (MEP) of \$ 950/tonne (MEP) of \$ 950/tonne imposed a year ago is set to give a boost to exports of basmatirice and ensure parity with competitor Pakistan in global trade and ensure farmers get reade and ensure farmers get rough of commencement of harvesting of commencement of harvesting of paddy, response padd, of paddy, response Sandip Das. # PAGE 2

COFFEE CHAIN STARTUPS DRAWING large design firms too VCs & PES AGAIN



ZOMATO TO END AI-GENERATED IMAGES ON MENU

ZOMATO HAS
DECIDED to put an
end to Al-generated
images on restaurant
partners' menus and marketing
materials, making it the first
among digital marketplaces to
try and tackle the issue of real vs

BANKS RAISE ₹50,000 CR VIA INFRA BONDS

BANKS HAVE RAISED more than ₹50,000 crore in the first five-and-a-half months of the current fiscal by issuing infrastructure bonds as deposit growth had remained slow amid

FE SPECIALS



Rewriting the script



Why e-Shram is still a work in progress

India eyes \$10-bn infra push from London funds mother's second will

Early investments will be in highway and rapid transport projects

PRASANTA SAHU New Delhi, September 15

INDIA IS LOOKING to attract investment commitments to the tune of \$10 billion fromfunds parked in the City of London in marquee projects, including highway stretches and the National Capital Region's

on-based fund houses will herald large-scale influx of "patient capital" in the country's burgeoning infrastructure sec-tor, official sources said.

Earlier this month, a team led by Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyammet fund houses in London to discuss the "home-

og CEO BVR Subrahmanyam met fund ses in London to discuss the "huge stial" in India. An agreement on the potential in india. An agreement on the financing bridge was signed between the City of London Corporation and the Niti Aayog on September 11 last year to tap a

THE SEMICONDUCTOR INCENTIVE scheme 2.0, which the government is expected to announce in the next three-four mouths, in likely to provide absidyto from the control of the c

THE SEMICONDUCTOR INCENTIVE

JATIN GROVER New Delhi, September 15

Semicon 2.0 to cover

to ensure that the interaction pro-(IP) of the chip should be in India.

Chip design is the first step in the semiconductor journey, as without it the semiconductor journey, as without it the

Oil India, TotalEnergies in

talks for offshore projects

SIALE-OWNED OIL MONE LO (OIL) is in the for it truely are interested to the a particular discussion with French energy company TotalEnergies for exploration of hydrocarbon blocks off finds is coars, either as a technical partner or a particularing interest (equity) partner, and Production of Public Companies, including PTT Explorationating interest (equity) partner, and Production of Public Companies.

ticipating interest "fequity) partner, a "artion and Production Public Com-senior corrupany esecutive tod laggressively. The firm is looking to bid aggressively to be supported to the production of the product

INFRA IN THE FAST LANE

■ Majority of asset London the world's



in the mean passe, the Chaston inships with the mean passe, the Chaston inships of the National Highways Authority of India's 8-10 projects and three multimodal hubs of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) at Ansand Vibar, Sarai Kale Khan and Ghaziabad. The network has been planned and spatially oriented to ensure seamless integration with the Indian Railways, Inter-State Bus Terminals

CHIPPING IN

Currently,
government
design startups
by reimbursing

₹15 cr firms to be eligible for incentives

In the proposed

property will have to be in India for

intellectual

50%

expenditure, with a ceiling of

of design-related

jects with the participation of a few big international players. Then they will become demonstration projects," a senior official said, adding that these same pro-ject financing models would be replicated official same ject financing models would be in other projects. Currently, India largely finances its Currently, India largely finances its currently india largely finances its

\$42 bn

ment budgets.

Continued on Page 17

FPIs invest ₹27,856 cr in a fortnight PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, September 15

policy meeting next week, its outcome will likely play a pivotal role in shaping the tra-jectory of future FPI investments in Indian

turn and missing out on the Indian mar-ket would be a bad strategy for FPIs, he added. High valuations in India, however, continue to be a concern. Also, a series of regulatory reforms aimed at streamlining the process for FPI investments has fur-

New twist to Kalyani family dispute over

IN A EDESH twist to the Kalvani family battle

a dispute has emerged over the group matri-arch Sulochana Kalyani's will. Both her sons,

arch stilocanan kayanit sun, norn ner som, have Baba Kayani and Gaurishani kar Kayani, have the sun and sun and sun and sun and sun and the sun and sun and sun and sun and Gaurishankar, brother of Baba Kalyani, chairman and managing director of Bharat Forge, has contested the will dated January 2012 that has been moved for probate by executors, Madan Umakant Takale and Shrikr-executors, Madan Umakant Takale and Shrikrishna Kiran Adivarekar. This was done on Feb-ruary 8, 2024. The hearing for this case is scheduled for October 9, 2024. Sulochana passed away in February 2023. Gaurishankar's affi-davit on July 15, 2024 had claimed that his

20.2.2. Subsequently, on August 2, 20.24, Yung Kalyani, Caurishankar's som moved for probate was a consession of the control of several control of several companies, including BFI (Bhazat Fores) and State (Salvarian State) and the default, Subsequently and State (Salvarian State) a

Baba Kalyani, CMD of Bharat Forge, claims that everything he owns is

his brother Gaurishank Gaurishankar, Baba Kalyani has been accused by their mother Sulochana of

A 100

around 2007, she and her husband, Neelk nth Kalyani, wished to see that Gaurishan and his family were secured during their l time and they decided to gift whatever we

in equities

FOREIGN INVESTORS HAVE infused FOREIGN INVESTORS HAVE infused 227,856 cross in domestic sequities in the first fortnight of this month, owing to the first fortnight of this month, owing to the ing optimism around the potential inter-est rate cut in the US. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been seen to be considered to the common temperature of the land to the common temperature land to the common temperature t

sectory of titure PV investments in inman equities, Himmanhu Srivantava, associate investment Research India, said.
According to data with the depositories, FPIs put in a net investment of \$27,856 crore into equities this month (till September 13). With this, FPIs* investment in equities reached \$70,737 (till September 13). With this, FPIsimvestment is equities reached ₹70,737 cross for farthly year. YK Vijayakumar, cross for farthly year. YK Vijayakumar, cial Services, has attributed two major reasons for the strong buying by FPIs. First, there is a consensus now that the US pirit, there is a consensus now that the US month, pushing the US yields down. Recent data aboving US inflation cooling for the fifth consecutive month, hit implications the property of the propert

in August, has strengthened expectations that the US Federal Reserve may proceed with a rate cut at its upcoming policy meeting. This will facilitate fund flows from the USto emerging markets. Secondly, the Indian market is extremely resilient with strong momen-

KEJRIWAL SAYS WILL RESIGN AS CM



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal addresses AAP workers in New Delhi on Sunday. Days after being released on bail in an excise policy case, he announced that he would resign as CM in the next two days and sought early assembly elections in Delhi

PAGE 17

Adani to supply 6,600 MW power to Maharashtra

THE ADANI GROUP has won a bid to supply 6,600 MW of bundled renewable and thermal power to Maharashtra for the long term after itsquoteof 64.08 per unit heat the likes of JSW Energy and Torrent Power. Adami Power's bid for supply for 25 years was almost a rupee low than the cost at which Maharashtra current procures electricity and will help meet future procures electricity and who map have sources electricity requirements of the state, sources said. Supplies are to start in 48 months from the date of award of the letter of intent. —PTI

US lenders counter Byiu's founder's claim on debt

US LENDERS REPRESENTED by Glas Trust have countered Byju's founder Byju Raveendrau's claim on verified debt on the commandation the beleaguered edtech min win and the entire \$1.2 billion Term Loan Balong with interest, reports PTI. Glas Trust has sued Byj for the recovery of \$1.2 billion TLB in US as w as in India. The financial trouble of once t most-valued Indian edtech firm Byju's starte
after US-based lenders started legal actio
assinst the company.

ENTRY-LEVEL CATEGORIES REMAIN MUTED, SAY TOP EXECUTIVES

ergies and are now framing the memoran-dum of understanding on whether they want to come on board as a technical part-ner or if they are interested to be a partici-

Onam sets festive tone as premium durables drive sales premium products during Onam this year," Kamal Nandi, business head and executive vice-president, Godrej Appliances, said. Typically, India's festive season

Humbai, September 15

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ

STATE-OWNED OIL INDIA Ltd (OIL) is in

THE PREMIUMISATION TREND in consumer durables is consolidating as the need to upgrade to begger and better products, led by easy financ-ing and rapid technological changes, is driving sales more than

changes, is driving sales more than last year, top executives at durables firm have the sales of the sales of the sales of the sales of the two-month festive season in India, has borne out this trend, executives say. The premiumisation trend is pronounced in urban areas, where pronounced in urban areas, where demand has been stable. Rural mar-kets, while showing signs of recov-"Onam this year is certa-than last year, when the



SHOPPING CELEBRATIONS ■ The two-month festive season gives consumer durable companies a third

durable sales this
Onam over last year of 9-10% in FY25

Malayali women celebrate Onam with 'pookalam' (flower rangoli) in Chikmagalur, Karnataka, on Sunday

demand has been stable. Rural mar-kets, while showing signs of recov-ery, will begin to pick up with a lag, but largely for entry-level durable saw de-growth of 5-6%. This was financialexp.epaprin _____

do everything from launching new products, driving consumer offers, discounts and cashbacks and putting out aggressive advertising and marketing campaigns to draw the attention of shoppers during the period. *Onam gives an early indication of how the festive season will look like. We have seen an almost 30-35% growth this Onam over last year, led by our high-end LED tele-

a third of their annual sales. Firms do everything from launching new

ances India

Avenee Singh Marwah, director and Elo of Super Plastronics, a conout of Noide, suided production times for categories such as television sets, washing machines and air conditions for categories such as television sets, washing machines and air conditionners were running at full capacity in anticipation of strong demand during Marian Diseases. Disease of the categories are superior of the categories are such as television sets, washing machines and air conditioners were running at full capacity in anticipation of strong demand during Marian Diseases. Disease demand during Dussehra-Diwai this year, which is considered th peak of the festive season.

umer durable makers will

New Delhi





TEAM FROM UK WILL VISIT PROJECT SITES IN NOVEMBER

India eyes \$10-bn infra push from London funds

Early investments will be in highway and rapid transport projects

PRASANTA SAHU New Delhi, September 15

INDIA IS LOOKING to attract investment commitments to the tune of \$10 billion from funds parked in the City of London in marquee projects, including highway stretches and the National Capital Region's rapid transport systems, by next year.

These initial investments from London-based fund houses will herald large-scale influx of "patient capital" in the country's burgeoning infrastructure sector, official sources said.

Earlier this month, a team led by Niti Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam met fund houses in London to discuss the "huge potential" in India. An agreement on the financing bridge was signed between the City of London Corporation and the Niti Aayog on September 11 last year to tap a part of the trillions of dollars managed by London-based asset managers.

INFRA IN THE FAST LANE

Majority of asset managers based in London, the world's second-largest financial services centre, don't invest in India

■ Officials cite information gaps behind lack of fund flows



■ India is currently in discussion with a host of countries to attract FDI

■ Net FDI inflows to India declined to \$26.5 bn in FY24 from

\$42 bn in FY23

India largely finances its infra projects through locally available funds

In the initial phase, the London funds would be encouraged to participate in bids for the National Highways Authority of India's 8-10 projects and three multimodal hubs of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) at Anand Vihar, Sarai Kale Khan and Ghaziabad. The network has been planned and spatially oriented to ensure seamless integration with the Indian Railways, Inter-State Bus Terminals (ISBTs), airports and the Delhi Metro.

"The aim is to deliver 4-6 marquee pro-

jects with the participation of a few big international players. Then they will become demonstration projects," a senior official said, adding that these same project financing models would be replicated in other projects.

Currently, India largely finances its infrastructure projects through domestically available funds including government budgets.

Continued on Page 17

- India's \$10 Billion Infrastructure
 Push from London Funds
- India is seeking to attract investment commitments worth \$10 billion from funds parked in London for infrastructure projects.
- The focus will be on marquee projects such as highways and rapid transport systems in the National Capital Region (NCR).



Agreement for Financing

- An agreement on the financing bridge was signed between the City of London Corporation and NITI Aayog in September 2023.
- The aim is to channel a portion of trillions of dollars managed by London-based asset managers towards Indian infrastructure.

Focus on Early Projects

- The initial phase will see London-based funds participating in bids for projects overseen by the **National Highways Authority of India** and **National Capital Region Transport Corporation** (NCRTC).
- These projects include three multimodal hubs in Anand Vihar, Sarai Kale Khan, and Ghaziabad, designed to integrate seamlessly with Indian Railways, airports, bus terminals, and the Delhi Metro.

Team Visit and Next Steps

- A team from the UK will visit project sites in India in November 2023 to assess investment opportunities.
- The first phase aims to deliver four to six marquee projects with international collaboration, establishing them as demonstration projects.

- Challenges in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- India's net FDI inflows fell to \$26.5 billion in FY24, down from \$42 billion in FY23.
- Most asset managers based in London do not invest in India due to information gaps, although India is currently engaged in discussions with several countries to attract more FDI.
- Current Infrastructure Financing
- India largely finances its infrastructure projects through locally available funds, including government budgets.
- The goal of engaging London funds is to establish new financing models and draw international participation.

- Consider the following statements regarding India's plan to attract investment from London-based funds for infrastructure projects:
- 1.India is looking to attract \$10 billion in investment from London-based asset managers for projects including highways and transport systems.
- 2.India's net FDI inflows increased from \$26.5 billion in FY23 to \$42 billion in FY24.
- 3.An agreement on the financing bridge was signed between the City of London Corporation and NITI Aayog in September 2023.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Delay in Appointment of NHRC Chairperson

Section 2, 3 and 4 of TPHRA lay down the rules for appointment to the NHRC. The chairperson and members of the NHRC are appointed by the President of India, on the recommendation of a committee consisting of:

- The Prime Minister (chairperson)
- The Home Minister
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha (Lower House)
- The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House)
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House)
- The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House)

Details

It is a statutory body. The chairman and members hold office for a term of three years or till age of seventy.

Structure

- ■Chairperson: Former Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the SC.
- ■One member: Former judge of SC or Chief Justice of a HC.
- ■Three Members: Having knowledge regarding human rights.
- ■The Chairpersons of NČSC, NCST, NČW, NČM, NCBC, NCPCR are ex-officio members.

Functions

- Inquire into violations of human rights by government of India
 Review the factors for acts of terrorism and recommend remedial measures
- ■To study treaties and other international instruments on human rights
- To visit jails and study the condition of inmates
- ■Engage in human rights education among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available.
- Encourage the efforts of NGOs to work in the field of human rights.





• The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been without a full-time chairperson since June 1, 2024, following the retirement of former Supreme Court Justice Arun Mishra.

About Current Leadership

- Vijayabharathi Sayani is the only full-time member and acting chairperson, handling all responsibilities.
 - The NHRC should have a chairperson and five other full-time members. It is currently operating with only one full-time member out of six required positions and seven ex-officio members.

- About National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- It was established on October 12, 1993, under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993, amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006.
- It aligns with the Paris Principles, which were endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1993.
- The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 was amended in 2019 to allow any Supreme Court judge to head the NHRC, not just retired Chief Justices of India.



Functions and Mandate

- Enquire into complaints of human rights violations or negligence by public servants.
- Study human rights treaties and international instruments.
- Make recommendations for effective implementation of these treaties to the Government.
- Promote human rights awareness among the public.
- Encourage human rights literacy at both national and international levels.

World Ozone Day

• The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change held an event in New Delhi to celebrate the 30th World Ozone Day.

About Day

- World Ozone Day is celebrated on 16th September each year to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol, an international environmental treaty for phasing out of production and consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances, that came into force on this day in 1987.
- Theme: The theme for 2024 was "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions," highlighting the Montreal Protocol's dual role in protecting the ozone layer and driving global climate action.

• India's Participation:

• India is a Party to the Montreal Protocol since June 1992, has been successfully implementing the **Montreal Protocol** and its ozone-depleting substances phase-out projects and activities in line with the phase-out schedule of the Protocol.



- India has phased out **Chlorofluorocarbons**, **Carbon tetrachloride**, **Halons**, **Methyl Bromide and Methyl Chloroform** for controlled uses as on 1 January 2010, in line with the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedule.
- Currently, **Hydrochlorofluorocarbons** (**HCFCs**) are being phased out as per the accelerated schedule of the Montreal Protocol.

- Ozone, with the chemical formula O₃, differs from the breathable oxygen (O₂) essential for life.
 - Although it makes up a small part of the atmosphere, ozone is crucial for human well-being.
 - Most ozone is found in the stratosphere, 10 to 40 km above Earth's surface, where it absorbs harmful ultraviolet radiation from the Sun, making it "good" ozone.



- In contrast, excess ozone at Earth's surface, formed from pollutants, is "bad" ozone and can be harmful.
 - Naturally occurring ozone near the surface also helps remove pollutants from the atmosphere.

Word of the day

Callow:

young and inexperienced

Synonyms: naive, untrained, immature

Usage: Voters are fed up with callow youths.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/callowpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kæləʊ/

CURRENT AFFAIRS COURSE

UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS (2023+2024)

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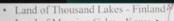
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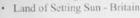
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